



Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies

Proceeding of Policy Dialogue on
**Developing an
Environmentally - adjusted Index
for Multidimensional Poverty**



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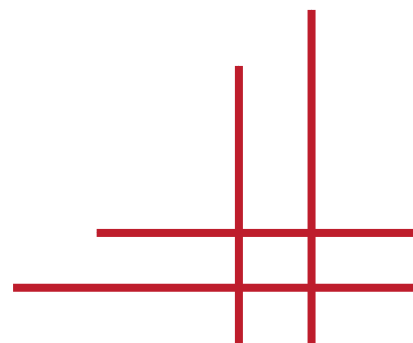


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Background and Objective

Studies including the ESPA (Ecosystem Services for Poverty Alleviation), funded by ESRC, have established the fact that ecosystem services play a vital role in human wellbeing. Further, environment has both positive (through environmental benefits including food, energy and amenity) and negative role (hazards leading to deprivation) in poverty. There is a growing recognition about engaging with natural environment and enhancing peoples' ability to withstand shocks and reduce vulnerability through access to nature as intrinsically valuable. These dimensions of human dependence on nature are so-called 'functionings' in the Capabilities Approach, developed by Amartya Sen (1999), and allow people to live a 'good life'. This approach forms the theoretical basis of the well-known Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), officially used by over 100 countries to identify the poor. The MPI provides rigorous statistics on poverty incidence and intensity, and includes dimensions related to health, education and living standards. It is therefore a strong instrument to support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) agenda, which pays particular attention to the inclusion of environmental factors.

In this connection, Schleicher, Schaafsma, Burgess, Sandbrook, Danks, Cowie and Vira have been undertaking a study on possibilities of developing an environmentally-adjusted MPI in Brazil using secondary data (see <https://doi.org/10.1002/sd.1692>). The study compares the environmentally-adjusted MPI statistics to existing MPI statistics to understand the patterns of incidence and experience of poverty and wellbeing, as measured by these alternative indicators. For instance, poverty may be the same if people identified as being poor under the current MPI are the same as those unable to deal with risks of natural hazards and climate change, and unable to access and engage meaningfully with the natural environment. Secondly, there is a need to understand whether the observed improvement in GDP and income (in Brazil) are reflected in the more broadly defined environmentally adjusted MPI.

There are ongoing studies to develop understanding on the relationships between the natural environment and poverty. The study was conducted in collaboration between the Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies (SIAS), the Universities of Cambridge, Sheffield and Southampton, the UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre, and the International Institute for Sustainability in Brazil. The work comprises two key components: (1) reviewing the conceptual and empirical basis for including the natural environment as a dimension of poverty and/or human wellbeing, and (2) assessing and developing ways of integrating the environment with multidimensional measures of poverty and wellbeing. For the first component, the team has examined the role of the natural environment in the conceptual understanding of poverty, by analyzing the extent to which the environment contributes to definitions of poverty and wellbeing. As part of the second component, the team has explored the methodological requirements for integrating the environment within multidimensional measures of poverty. Preliminary empirical analyses have focused on how environmental data could be integrated with measures of poverty and wellbeing in Brazil and Rwanda. The team also intend to explore these topics within the Nepalese context. This is particularly timely given the recent publication of Nepal's Multidimensional Poverty Index by the Government of Nepal's National Planning Commission.

To gain a better understanding of these issues in Nepal, the Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies (SIAS) in collaboration with University of Cambridge and the University of Sheffield in UK organized a meeting in Kathmandu on Thursday, 24 May with the following aims:

- Gain an overview of the different types of poverty measures used in Nepal, with a specific focus on measures of multidimensional poverty.
- Discuss the role of the natural environment for poverty in Nepal: What environmental aspects are particularly important for poverty and how are they related? What country-specific issues are important for a multidimensional poverty index that includes the environment, and what are the data needs for constructing such an index?
- Explore related work on poverty and environment measures in Nepal and the key actors and stakeholders who are involved in this work.

The workshop was attended by 40 participants including Dr Swarnim Wagle, former vice-chairperson of National Planning Commission, Krishna Gyawali, former secretary of the Government of Nepal, Suman Raj Aryal, Director General of Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS), representatives from line ministries and experts in the field. List of participants is included in Annex 2.

Introduction to the Program

The meeting started with an introductory session with explanation on purpose and objectives of the meeting by Ngamindra Dahal – Executive Director of SIAS and introduction among participants and SIAS itself (by Kamal Devkota – Program Director of SIAS). While outlining the program schedule, Ngamindra also set the tone for further discussion that was to focus on contextualizing the present study on environmentally adjusted MPI in Nepal.

Presentations

Background presentation by Prof Bhaskar Vira

Substantive part of the meeting began with a presentation by Prof Bhaskar Vira, Director, University of Cambridge Conservation Research Institute focusing on the introduction and background to the meeting. Professor Vira, in his presentation highlighted on the aims and context of the dialogue and discussed about the background research that laid conceptual foundation for the work on relation between poverty (and human wellbeing) and environment. Prof. Vira pointed out that the rationale for the research lies in exploring the roles natural environment plays in ways people experience poverty. In his presentation Prof. Vira asserted that despite significant dataset pointing towards the linkages between environment and poverty, such linkages are largely neglected in the different poverty indexes. He suggested three possible perspective to understand whether the environment aspect of poverty is sufficiently captured, which include, i) No influence (the understanding that environmental has no influence over poverty), ii) External (environment plays an instrumental role in poverty), iii) Internal (environment is a constitutive part of poverty). The environment is widely considered as an external factor influencing poverty, like in case of how it is linked in SDGs, Prof. Vira exemplified and added that the previous research under ESPA program funded by ESRC, furthered the popular understanding and established that environment can be a constitutive factor of poverty and wellbeing. Hence, with that understanding, he put forward a number of questions that could be a starting point for discussion such as ways to integrate environment in MPI in context of Nepal and if there are possibilities of future collaboration to work in the same issue. (Please refer to Annex 3 for the Power point Presentation)

Poverty Measures in Context of Nepal: Suman Aryal

Suman Raj Aryal, the director general of Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) presented the key features of Nepal's MPI with a brief background to development of different poverty indicators in Nepal. Talking about the beginning of poverty profiling in Nepal 30 years ago, Mr. Aryal traced the history of development of the fundamental ideas of poverty. From its first poverty analysis carried out during the Panchyat system to present day MPI system, Nepal has been updating its poverty indicators, he said. He highlighted that the present day widely used indicator, Nepal Living Standard Survey (NLSS) is a mono-metric system that convert both food and non-food item into calorie intake for its calculation. He mentioned the new approach of measuring poverty introduced by scholars of Oxford University in 2006 which calculates the percentage of population below poverty line. Aryal asserted that this move led the development of MPI in Nepal and CBS is leading this process. MPI developed in CBS's leadership is the replication of global model. He explained that the main philosophies foundation behind MPI are capability approach and it considers human development as well as social and environmental aspects. Referring to the objectives of the discussion, Mr. Aryal pointed out that the concept of green accounting is already in place in Nepal but there is a



debate on how the environmental aspect can be included in the MPI, directly or indirectly. Yet, he argued that another attempt to include environment as development indicator is the National Climate Change Survey, 2016. The survey was carried out by Nepal for the first time in South Asia. He gave an example from that survey that shows the change in breeding capacity of the livestock in last 25 years which directly and indirectly affects nutrition and health. Mr. Aryal concluded by asserting that these kinds of survey can provide data which can be linked to establish environmentally adjusted MPI. (Please refer to Annex 3 for the Power point presentation).

Developing an environmentally adjusted MPI: Johan Oldekop

Johan the assistant professor of University of Sheffield started his talk by reiterating the aim and objectives of the meeting which was to discuss the relationships between environment and dimensions of poverty. He said that his talk was based on the work he has been doing in Brazil to develop an environmentally adjusted MPI. Johan said that poverty can be conceptualized as different forms of deprivation such as education, health and income. And it has been established that environment is an elemental part of wellbeing and human deprivation. He raised a question on how should linkage between environment and poverty be conceived? Should it be understood as instrumental or more inherently linked or constitutive? He further moved on to define MPI and its three dimensions, health, education and living standard in Brazilian context which the current research measured with more refined indexes. The added environmental dimensions to the indicators were: experiencing existence of nature, access to natural resources, and environmental risk and vulnerability. Johan inferred that the environment was both constitutive and instrumental in defining poverty. Further in the presentation, different data from different indicators development to include environment in the MPI were shown such as the access to natural land, flood risk, extreme drought, and landslide susceptibility. The change was seen in the MPI with and without the environmentally adjusted factor. Johan also mentioned the limitation of such use of indicators as the environmental aspect included was fairly limited and approach undertaken was top-down. Further in the presentation, Johan highlighted the policy relevance of the new index as the work feed into the SDG1 can inform data collection effort. He said that it can complement existing measures of poverty and social deprivations and helps prioritize areas and strategies to address deprivation. He concluded the presentation by highlighting the limitation of the current poverty as it does not adequately capture the natural environment. The study conducted in Brazil set an example that environment plays role in deprivation as well as income. He wrapped up his talk encouraging the participants to discuss on the value of similar approach in Nepal and putting question of how linkages can be established between environment and poverty and with what sort of data set. (Please Refer to Annex 3 for the PowerPoint presentation).



Moderated discussion

The meeting proceeded with a moderated discussion facilitated by Mr. Krishna Gyanwali, Research and Policy Advisor – SIAS and former secretary of the Government of Nepal. He began discussion by sharing an anecdote on the difficulties in convincing the representatives of government ministries while implementing sanitation indicator (through ODF¹) and health indicator (through ICS²). Given the socio-cultural sensibilities of the people,

¹ ODF: Open Defecation Free

² ICS: Improved Cooking Stove



he stressed that what comes from theorists and academicians should be contextualized. He raised his doubts over the use of the environmentally adjusted MPI as he thought it could be one more indicator added to plethora of others that tries to put Nepal (developing countries) under the poverty line. He put his position that he is skeptic of such indicator but was keen to hear what other distinguished guests had to say. The key points raised by the participants are as following.

Dhruba Bhandari, Economist, Institute of Integrated Development Studies (IIDS): He was of the view that we need to work out first the environmental index before considering integrating environmental indicators to other indexes. Harsh

environment has different impacts than in ideal conditions. Also, the concept of vicious cycle of poverty in terms of environment too needs to be considered, like, poverty makes you over exploit the environment and negative effects of environmental exploitation make you poor.

Sanjaya Acharya: He expressed his views that environment has different effects to people in rural and urban areas and we need to see this differently. UNDP started using Human Poverty Index in 1990 looking at 3 indicators, health, education and income. Similar indicators are captured in MPI too. Yet, MPI further disaggregates some of the indicators. But are we using both? What is the rationale for using both, if being used?

Sushil Sharma, Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS): A climate change survey was carried out in 2016 which used IPCC standards which directly related with environmental vulnerability. The household survey was carried out in 16 strata (like places, climate zone). The survey provides the data set for the indicators presented before. This survey can provide many information for environmental indicators.

Nawaraj Ghimire, National Natural Resource and Fiscal Commission: We have made some sub indicators at local level in fodder for determining budget allocation to local government which is primarily a capacity index. But we found some mismatches with MPI. The index was derived from small sample but what we have learned is that it is necessary to contextualize the international indicators such as MPI. Nepal should come up with its own indicators in terms of poverty measure. Further, in terms of environment indicators, we are very rich on bio-diversity and there is wide environmental variations even within the same ecological range. These variations affect not only human wellbeing but also culture and social aspects of our life. The rapid change in climate from one season to next makes it difficult to determine poverty index and vulnerability of people. For example, how can we say that people are poor or rich when there is alternate pattern of high production and low production owing to the seasonal variation in climate?

Trilochan Pokhrel, Nepal Administrative Staff College (NASC): Environment is an overarching issue. How can we define it under our context? What is the quality of the indicators? Is it direct or instrumental? Is the indicator that is being defined important or relevant to all population? Like if the access to land- is it important for urban dwellers? We need to consider the political and social dimension. How can we calculate the asset and use it as wellbeing (like fresh air in village despite flood?). How to get the dataset to derive indicators since there is no consistent data?

Manjeet Dhakal, Clean Energy Nepal (CEN): It was good to know about the availability of provincial level data and it can be useful (relate to CBS presentation). However, micro level assessment is required. Three dimensions and ten indicators used in Brazil seem very useful. Should we come with a new dimension or can we just integrate them into the index that is always present? What were the rationales behind the use of those indicators in Brazil? Climate induced displacement is also important to be considered. We need Nepali context but our data should also be comparable to the global indicators.



Response from Johan: The issues that are raised are important. I want to reiterate few things: First, we have to define instrumental and constitutive dimension clearly otherwise it could be misleading. We might think that some aspects are important but the data may not be available. There is no perfect indicator. Second, it is important to think broadly to understand if environment is important in development dialogue. No distinction has been made between constitutive and instrumental which needs to be thought of.

Nawakul KC, Poverty Alleviation Fund (PAF): MPI itself is new thing for us. According to the provincial level governments, the MPI report is widely used to show our poverty. They found the MPI useful tool for resource allocation. We need to be careful on how we define environmental indicators. For example, employment is more important for country's overall economy while environment is also necessary for long term and sustainable impact. Poverty is very fragile and critical. We are facing the challenges of environmental vulnerability and in such situation, the discussion around environment is emerging. It is good.

Kanchan Lama, Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies (SIAS): Equitable access and control over natural resources should be ensured and also measured. I am also part of Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resources (WOCAN) and the United Nations Framework Convention of Climate Change (UNFCCC) processes. We (WOCAN) were awarded for the tools we developed to measure access and control of women on natural resources. I think, we should not only focus on technical aspect but also the social indicators while thinking about environmental indicators. We can share our tool later to those interested. The environmental indicators are already built in there.

Suresh Basnet, Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS): In Brazil example, there was no significant difference in percentage of people below poverty between the MPI and environmentally adjusted MPI. If we use global MPI in our context, will it require more data on our side?

Saurav Man Shrestha, Institute of Integrated Development Studies (IIDS): I think environment is naturally endowed. Incorporating environment as index doesn't make much sense for us but could make sense for countries which has larger part covered in desert; we cannot increase the vegetation as it is naturally endowed. It is important to see how environment has changed over time and how it has affected the population over the time and how it affected poverty. That will give relative position under different climatic conditions. This can help us to purpose some strategy for adaptation.

Ganapati Ojha, Community of Evaluators (CoE Nepal): What do we mean by assets? Are we also including natural assets? If yes, then the environmental dimension is already included. There is a risk of double counting if we do not define it clearly. We can have new environment index or adjust environmental indicators in the MPI but how do we use it? Should it be 4 dimensional indexes or 3 dimensions with 11 indicators? If we adjust environment indicators in MPI, do we add it in dimension or in indicator?

Dr. Rajesh Rai, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD): I think that best approach will be to account environmental services that are based on the concept of human welfare. This will reduce the risk of double counting. When we talk about environment, there are some risks as well. Ecosystem disservices by the environment should be taken into account.

Manjeet Dhakal, Climate Analytics: The strategy for reducing poverty requires taking account of environmental aspects. For example, if we need electricity, how do we produce it? Environment can also contribute to increase vulnerability as in the case of people living close to national parks. So the environmental indicators should be directed towards solving the problem.

Biswo Paudel, Kathmandu University (KU)/ International Labor Organization (ILO): There is a lack of understanding on causal relationships. For example, living in places prone to landslide make people poor or do they live there because they are poor. Economic prosperity can also increase the environmental amenities. So let's go for income aspect first and then we can come back to environment. Some economists think that as they become richer, they can afford to make environment better/cleaner. In other words, better environment can be achieved once economic prosperity is achieved. The indicators are good to provide a snapshot view but in context of Nepal, I would want to add the landslide exposure, source of drinking water.

Response from Johan: Community forest has lifted some people out of poverty. The issue of double counting is important, now again, we need to be clear about constitutive and instrumental dimension. The issue of vulnerabilities is important. Our thinking was that vulnerability can be constitutive element of wellbeing. In UK if you live in flood prone area, you have low chances of health insurance. Those living in drought prone area have uncertainty of growing sufficient food and that influences wellbeing. Farmers' suicide in India also illustrates that. It is difficult to define the relation between environment and wellbeing. Could we include the information about environment in survey such as climate change survey? I think it could provide ideas on how to think this in detail.

Concluding points from the discussion facilitator, Mr. Gyawali: Today's discussion has made me think of 3 triggers. The first is environmental dimensions in SDGs. How are we contextualizing SDGs. The second trigger, our own identity as an environmentally rich and vulnerable country, and third, we are also increasingly vulnerable to climate induced disasters. And also we have to consider the socio-economic and political development from equity perspective. What is the take home message from the discussion? I think environmental indicators can be adjusted to the existing MPI but it is important to be contextualized.

Remarks from Dr. Swarnim Wagle, former vice chairperson of the National Planning Commission (NPC): Composite index is a complex science and we should not take it lightly. It is important to understand the science behind it.



Handbook by OECD: constructive composite indicator to compare the robustness of the indicators. Not all composite indicators pass the test of time as they lack the rigor or they lack the data set. There are some key aspects that makes the composite indicators work. First is the theoretical foundation. Second is data set. Data from missing years- how they are treated, multivariate analysis is required. The main problem is redundancy. More data may not mean robustness of the index. It can create more confusion and make is noisy. Working with the composite index requires much rigor. The third important factor is sensitivity analysis. How much can we decompose and whether we can visualize it. It is important to see how rigorous the work behind it was.

It is important to understand the relation between environment and development. Should we add the component to the indicators or we develop standalone index? There is a consensus on the uselessness of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) indicator. We know the weakness but we cannot dislodge it because there is no other robust indicator. Human Development Index (HDI) was close but it has been revised 10 times in last 10 years. It has not been robust enough to replace GDP. So does a new indicator add value to the existing index such as MPI and if the value is worth going through the trouble? That doesn't mean HDI is useless. Unpacking the non-income aspect of HDI can show changes that GDP cannot show. Burden of proof is always on the proponent. If it doesn't add value, it becomes just a burden.

In case of MPI, it measures deprivation whereas HDI measures capabilities. MPI should be developed at provincial level first and then at local level. The MPI measure multiple dimension of the poverty. GND is affected by international factors such as remittance, exchange rate. MPI can contribute to the policy implementation, which is also the major characteristic of MPI.

Now whether to add environment in MPI? We may want it but we may not have the data set required for it. What sort of variables do we use to calculate the impacts? What can be the proxy indicators that are important and that

can be calculated in certain intervals? If we take the household as a unit, can we disintegrate the proposed indicator at household level? What are the best indicators to understand environmental quality? Will the indicator have a universal appeal (indicators need to be generalized with the diverse environment within a country)? Nepal specific indicators may not be globally comparable. If we want it to incorporate into MPI, then it has to be in household level and it can be replicable and can be done in certain time interval. Standalone environmental index can be useful in this context using the 10 steps (from OECD) that I mentioned before and make it robust. But, I have a major doubt over the environmentally adjusted MPI. There was a lot of discussion about adding political freedom in HDI but it was not politically accepted. Later the Arab development report did it which became foundation for Arab spring. So, such indicators can be transformative. Despite these effects, there are no credible alternatives for GDP. There is another inequality adjusted HDI and penalizing by reducing the HDI. And the Gender Development Index was another aspect adjusted in HDI. However, it couldn't replace GDP. So, I reiterate that there is possibility of standalone environmental index but it might not work for environmentally adjusted MPI.

Closing remarks with vote of thanks by Dil Khatri, Research Director, SIAS: Dil Bahadur Khatri from SIAS wrapped up the program and expressed thanks to all the participants. He expressed that the discussion was timely as relevance of environmental aspects to poverty is an established fact. He also highlighted that there are spaces to work despite difference on ideas on how it can be used. Thus summarizing the take home message, Mr. Khatri, expressed that the whole team of SIAS felt honored to host Dr. Wagle, Mr. Gyanwali and all distinguished participants from different fields who made time for the meeting and provided valuable contributions.

Concluding points and ways forward

Despite dispersed views of the officials and experts, there was an agreement about the significance of taking account of environmental indicators in development and poverty measures. Experts converged on the role of environment in human wellbeing and deprivation (in the form of hazards) and hence stressed the need to the environmental aspect account in the existing measures such as MPI. However, there were two contrasting views on whether we can develop an environmentally adjusted MPI or we need a standalone index for environment. While some pointed out the possibilities and value of adjusting environmental indicators in the existing MPI, developed recently in Nepal. Yet, there were also strong voices for standalone index for environment. They were of the view that adjusting environmental indicator may weaken the MPI and add complexities to develop and use it. Dr. Wagle, who was involved in developing Nepal's MPI and number of other indexes firmly pushed the idea and suggested to develop a standalone index. The second important objective of the meeting entailed discussions on the necessary data available to develop environmental indicators and how could we move forward. This aspect was not adequately discussed in the meeting and it will require a more focused meeting in a smaller team of selected experts to do some homework. Such homework would provide us a clearer picture about the key environmental indicators to consider in Nepalese context and pave way to move ahead. Further, there will also be need of reviewing the existing works such as the climate impact survey conducted by CBS and other environmental and biodiversity studies. Such review will provide a better picture about availability of secondary information for environmental indicators. Hence, we can move a bit forward by doing some groundwork by organizing an expert meeting and quick review. There seemed a great deal of enthusiasm and commitment from CBS and other experts on this and we can catch this momentum. After this meeting, we also see the possibilities of carrying out similar kind of study as in Brazil to explore the possibility of developing an environmentally adjusted MPI or developing a standalone index.

Annexes:

Annex 1:

WORKSHOP AGENDA

Time	Session	Role
13:00 – 13:30	Arrival, registration and tea/coffee	SIAS
13:30 – 13:40	Opening and introduction	SIAS
13:40 – 13:55	Background to the workshop and study	Prof. Bhaskar Vira University of Cambridge, UK
13:55 – 14:10	Key features of Nepal's MPI	Suman Raj Aryal Director General - CBS
14:10 – 14:40	Insights from the study on environmentally-adjusted indicators for poverty in the SDG context	Johan Oldekop University of Sheffield, UK
14:40 – 16:00	Facilitated discussion	Krishna Gyawali Research and Policy Advisor - SIAS
16:00 – 16:10	Remarks	Swarnim Wagle Former VC – National Planning Commission
16:10 – 16:20	Wrap up and vote of thanks	Dil Khatri Research Director - SIAS
16:20 –	High tea	

PRE-WORKSHOP INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS:

QUESTIONS GUIDING THE WORKSHOP/TO THINK ABOUT BEFORE:

- What poverty measures are used in the Nepalese context?
- What are they used for, why and by whom? (we are particularly interested in multidimensional and composite measures)
- How are these poverty measures perceived in the Nepalese context?
- What links do you see between the environment and poverty? Is there evidence that these links matter in Nepal?
- Which of these are/are not reflected in current poverty measures? (e.g. flooding results in crop loss, which affects child nutrition and infant mortality: this might already be captured in existing measures)
- Are there environmental aspects that are directly part of how people perceive and define poverty? (e.g. regular flooding results in feelings of risk and anxiety that reduces wellbeing)

Annex 2:

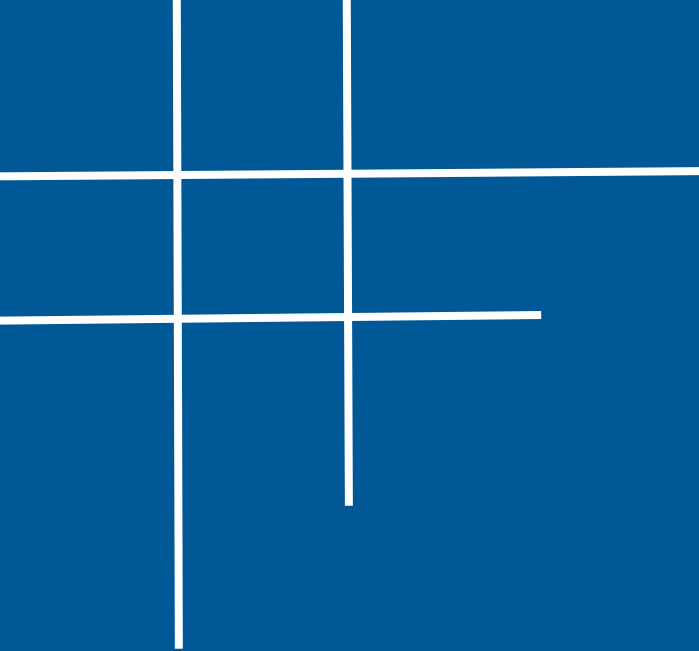
List of participants

SN	Name	Organization
	Ankita Shrestha	Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies
	Anu Adhikari	International Union for Conservation of Nature
	Anukram Adhikari	Forest Action Nepal
	Bhavuk Raj Neupane	Tribhuvan University
	Biswo Poudel	Kathmandu University/ International Labor Organization
	Chiranjibi Bhattarai	Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies
	Dev Raj Joshi	National Planning Commission
	Dhurba Bhattarai	Institute of Integrated Development Studies
	Dil Khatri	Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies
	Ganapati Ojha	Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies
	Gyanu Maskey	Kathmandu University, School of Arts
	Johan Oldekop	University of Sheffield
	Kamal Devkota	Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies
	Kanchan Lama	Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies
	Kaustuv Raj Neupane	Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies
	Krishna Gyawali	Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies
	Kshitiz Dhakal	South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment
	Madhu Sudhan Gautam	National Disaster Risk Reduction Centre
	Manjeet Dhakal	Climate Analytics
	Mannish Gyawali	Poverty Alleviation Fund
	Megha Bajaj	Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies
	Nahakul K.C	Poverty Alleviation Fund
	Nama Raj Ghimire	National Natural Resources & Fiscal Commission
	Navin Adhikari	Central Department of Economics, TU
	Ngamindra Dahal	Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies
	Pushpa Acharya	Society of Economic Journalists Nepal
	Rachana Upadhyaya	Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies
	Rajesh Rai	South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics/ICIMOD
	Ramesh Adhikari	Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration
	Sanjay Acharya	Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies
	Sarurav Aryal	Central Bureau of Statistics
	Sowrab Man Shrestha	Institute of Integrated Development Studies
	Srijana Paudel	Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies
	Suchita Shrestha	Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies
	Suresh Basnyat	Central Bureau of Statistics
	Sushant Acharya	Kathmandu University, School of Arts
	Sushil Sharma	Central Bureau of Statistics
	Swarnim Wagle	Institute of Integrated Development Studies/Kathmandu University
	Trilochan Pokharel	Nepal Administrative Staff College
	Yasoda Karki	Poverty Allieviation Fund

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